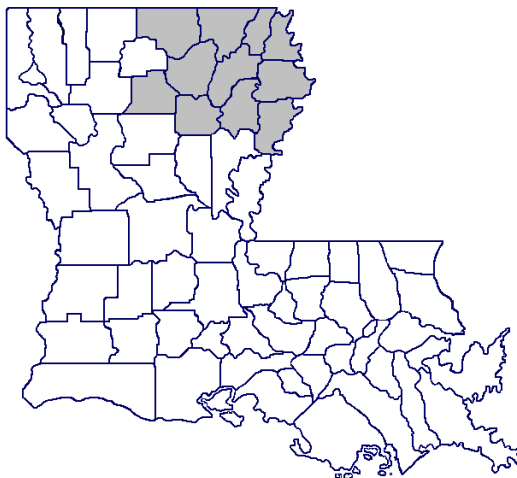


**REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 8
FIRST QUARTER 2003 EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES
SUBJECT TO THE LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW**

Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Madison
Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll



The average quarterly employment for RLMA 8 during first quarter 2003 was 112,634, a decrease of 2.5% from the fourth quarter 2002, and a decrease of 0.9% from the same period in 2002. Employment increased in six of the 20 NAICS sectors from the fourth quarter 2002. The largest percentage increase of 10.7% was in management of companies and enterprises.

Average quarterly employment data for first quarter 2003, fourth quarter 2002, first quarter 2002, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Average Quarterly Employment" on page 75. Health care and social assistance was the leading industry in RLMA 8 with 19,870 employees, or 17.6% of total employment. Ouachita was the leading parish with 71,405 employees, or 63.4% of total employment.

Total wages increased 1.5% from the same period in 2002 and decreased 9.3% from fourth quarter 2002, for an average weekly wage of \$488.47. Jackson parish had the highest average weekly wage of \$550.92.

Average weekly wage data for each parish in RLMA 8 is listed in the table below. The average weekly wage data for all parishes within each NAICS sector is shown in the table "Regional Labor Market Area 8" beginning on page 78.

Parish	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Caldwell	\$ 404.17
East Carroll	392.79
Franklin	370.50
Jackson	550.92
Madison	408.36
Morehouse	531.26
Ouachita	519.64
Richland	399.11
Tensas	424.49
Union	394.43
West Carroll	367.84

The number of reporting units in RLMA 8 for first quarter 2003 was 7,854.

Due to the conversion to NAICS, this data should not be compared to data in publications prior to first quarter 2001.

REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 8
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT

